

# The Williston Methodist Church

Williston, South Carolina

September 9, 1966

The Honorable Ivan Allen  
Mayor, City of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia

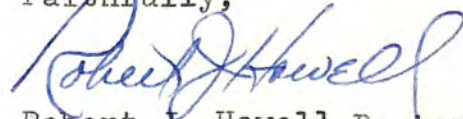
Dear Mayor Allen:

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for your conduct and the handling of the turmoil that recently erupted in your city. I have watched your administration with interest ever since I was a student at Emory University. I have seen Atlanta go forward in these chaotic times under your leadership and had the feeling that your city was becoming a "light" in the darkness that prevails in our times.

You certainly have our prayers, admiration and respect as you seek to deal with radical groups such as SNCC. Your being there on the spot and demonstrating not only your willingness to talk about the problems but to involve yourself personally even to the risking of your own well being serves as an example and an inspiration to all thinking people in the South.

Let me say again that I deeply appreciate you and your leadership and pray that God will give you strength, wisdom, and guidance in these times.

Faithfully,



Robert J. Howell, Pastor  
Williston Methodist Church

RJH:bc